



For Immediate Release

Friday, April 26, 2013

Contact: Ryan Duffy

(850) 717-5618

House Majority Office: Kristen McDonald

(850) 717-5129

Florida House Passes Medicaid Expansion Alternative to Provide More Floridians with Access to Quality Health Care

Tallahassee, Fla.—Today the Florida House of Representatives passed CS/HB 7169, to establish “Florida Health Choices Plus” to provide more Floridians with quality health care options. The program allows eligible adults living in poverty, including parents and certain adults with disabilities, to fill the coverage gap created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and receive access to a range of health care coverage options. The “Florida Health Choices Plus” program will cost the state \$237 million annually and does not rely on federal dollars to operate.

“Today, the Florida House took a good first step toward adopting a sustainable, free-market solution that both strengthens Florida’s safety net for our most vulnerable citizens and protects our taxpayers. This is a plan that fits the needs of our state, not the requirements of Washington,” said House Speaker Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel). “I thank my colleagues for their thoughtful debate on this issue as we have worked together to develop a targeted approach that will provide quality health care options to those who truly need it most.”

If implemented, more than 525,000 Floridians would receive coverage either through the House plan or the Federal health care exchange. For more information, please read the Florida House Majority Office’s overview online [here](#).

“This plan utilizes the principles of the free market to provide a health care program that promotes better health, private coverage and independence. By offering a robust choice of private health care plans, Floridians will have a unique opportunity to build the lowest cost, highest value health coverage



Representative Steve Precourt, Majority Leader

Follow us on Twitter: @FLGOPMajority

Like Us on Facebook: Facebook.com/FLGOPMajority

package for themselves and their families. This program will create an open and highly competitive market that allows individuals and families to maximize their health care dollars to their personal need and benefit,” said Rep. Richard Corcoran (R-Land O’ Lakes), Chair of the House Select Committee on PPACA.

“This program takes an innovative approach to provide low-income Floridians with affordable, quality health care options, rather than simply pushing more individuals onto Medicaid, a program we already know to be flawed,” said Rep. Travis Cummings (R-Orange Park), sponsor of the bill. “After months of thoughtful deliberation, it became clear that an all-or-nothing federal approach dependent on unreliable funding was not the best way to strengthen Florida’s safety net and provide quality care to our citizens. The House plan achieves both of those goals without putting Floridians on the hook for billions that we currently do not have.”

In March, the Florida House Select Committee voted against Medicaid expansion, which will cost the state of Florida \$3.5 billion over the next 10 years. Speaker Weatherford has made strengthening Florida’s safety net a priority, as reflected in the House’s proposed FY 2013-14 Budget. The budget increases funding to serve our most vulnerable populations such as our elderly, disabled and citizens in need of mental health and substance abuse treatment. It includes \$996.3 million for Medicaid Price Level and Caseload increases and fully funds the anticipated growth of Kidcare. The budget also allocates \$24.2 million to increase those served on the Agency for persons with Disabilities Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waiver by approximately 750 individuals.

#



Representative Steve Precourt, Majority Leader

Follow us on Twitter: [@FLGOPMajority](https://twitter.com/FLGOPMajority)

Like Us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/FLGOPMajority](https://www.facebook.com/FLGOPMajority)